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ABSTRACT

This survey, which had a 73 0/0 response rate, found that 64 0/0 of the naturopaths licensed in Washington were professionally located in the State. A majority were actively practicing drugless therapeutics involving direct patient care. As a group, naturopaths were usually male and older than in other health occupations. Although a large percentage fialed to reply to questions regarding education, nearly half reported completion of high school. Three fourths of the naturopaths were licensed through complete examination, another 10 0/0 had obtained reciprocity of the basic science portion of their licensure examination. (Author)

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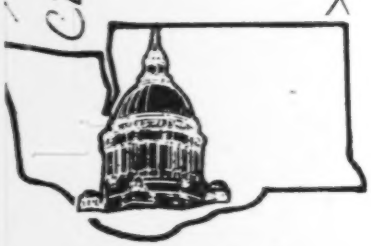
NATUROPATHS *Licensed in* Washington

September, 1970



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NATUROPATHS LICENSED IN WASHINGTON STATE

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All inquiries concerning the report and requests for data should be addressed to Health Manpower Project, Division of Health, Washington State Department of Social and Health Services, 815, Smith Tower, Seattle, Washington 98104. Data were gathered in cooperation with the Division of Professional Licensing. The survey is considered a Pilot Study. Modifications in design and analyses are anticipated for future studies.

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ABSTRACT

This survey, which had a 73% response rate, found that 64% of the naturopaths licensed in Washington were professionally located in the State. A majority were actively practicing drugless therapeutics involving direct patient care. As a group, naturopaths were usually male and older than in other health occupations. Although a large percentage failed to reply to questions regarding education, nearly half reported completion of high school. Three fourths of the naturopaths were licensed through complete examination, another 10% had obtained reciprocity on the basic science portion of their licensure examination.

NATUROPATHY

"Naturopathy is a school of healing employing a combination of nature's forces such as air, light, water, vibration, heat, electricity, dietetics and massage. It does not include the use of drugs, surgery and X-ray or radiation (except for diagnostic purposes). Many naturopaths are former chiropractors and use chiropractic treatment."[1]

The National Center for Health Statistics estimates that fewer than 1,000 of these practitioners of drugless therapeutics are currently licensed in the United States. In 1969, 91 were licensed in Washington State. A 1965-66 survey of state licensing in the health occupations found 107 in Washington State.

A 1958 investigation conducted by the Bureau of Economic and Business Research showed five institutions in the nation that taught naturopathy and/or granted degrees. In 1969, only one of these schools was found to be in existence--The National College of Naturopathic Medicine, Seattle, Washington.[2]

1. "Health Resources Statistics, 1969" published by the National Center for Health Statistics, U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare, Public Health Service, Health Services and Mental Health Administration, Chapter 6, p. 51.

2. Op.cit.

SUMMARY OF LICENSING REGULATIONS REGARDING THE PRACTICE OF DRUGLESS THERAPEUTICS--STATE OF WASHINGTON

Scope of Licensee's Functions

Drugless therapeutics consists of hydrotherapy, dietetics, electrotherapy, radiography, sanitation, suggestion, mechanical and manual manipulation for the stimulation of physiological and psychological action to establish a normal condition of mind and body, but in no way includes the giving, prescribing, or recommending of pharmaceutic drugs and poisons for internal use.

The separate and coordinate systems of drugless therapeutics are:

(1) Food Science, the science of treating disease through the chemical action of foods, water, nonmedicinal herbs, roots, barks, and all natural food elements, other than pharmaceutic drugs and poisons to bring about a normal condition of health.

(2) Mechano-Therapy,, a system of therapeutics which enables the practitioners to know how to apply scientfically, the mechanics of hydrotherapy, dietetics, circumstances, idea and manual manipulation for the stimulation of psycho and physiological action to establish a normal condition of the body.

(3) Suggestive Therapeutics, a system of healing which enables the practitioner to know the scientific effect of movements on the body and how to direct a system of mechanical gymnastics that restore the diseased parts of functions to a normal condition.

Educational Prerequisites

To be eligible for a license in drugless therapeutics, a person must prove that he has completed a residence course of three entire sessions of thirty-six weeks each at a chartered drugless school the entrance requirements of which were a high school education or its equivalent.

Drugless therapeutics practitioners must also pass an examination in the following subjects: anatomy, physiology, hygiene, symptomatology, urinalysis, dietetics, hydrotherapy, radiography, electrotherapy, gynecology, obstetrics, psychology, mechanical and manual manipulation.

Reciprocity

There is no reciprocity in the drugless therapeutics portion of the examination. Applicants for reciprocity in the basic science portion of the examination must forward a certificate from the secretary of the basic science board in the state in which the original basic science certificate was obtained. Such certificate must show subjects and grades.

METHODOLOGY

This report is based on information gathered through the Department of Motor Vehicles, Division of Professional Licensing, at the time of licensure renewals. Data analysis and report writing were performed by the Health Manpower Project, Division of Health, Washington State Department of Social and Health Services.

On May 12, 1969, 91 research forms were mailed with license renewals to all drugless therapeutics licensed in the State of Washington. By March 30, 1970, all drugless therapeutics had renewed their licenses for 1969-70. Sixty six also returned their research forms, representing a 73% response rate.

The survey upon which this report is based is considered a pilot study. A second survey was undertaken during 1970 which will provide additional detail on this occupation.

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF NATUROPATHS LICENSED IN WASHINGTON STATE

Of the 66 respondents, 42 (64%) specified their professional address was in Washington State. The remaining respondents were located primarily in other Western states, as shown below.

TABLE I.

State of Residence of Naturopaths Licensed in Washington

State:	No.	%
Washington	42	64
Oregon	13	20
Alaska	3	4
Other states	4	6
No answer	4	6
Total	66	100%

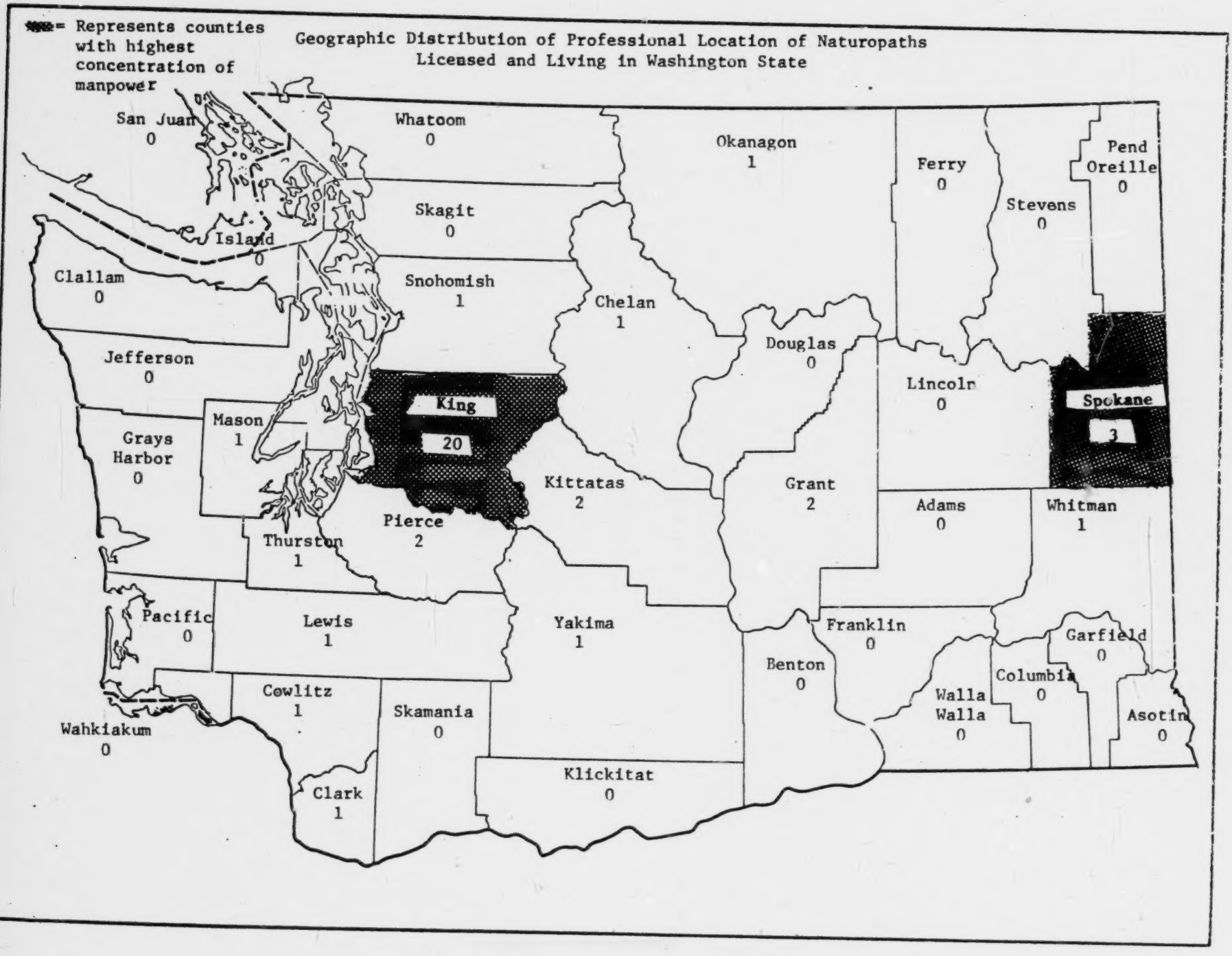
Nearly half of the Washington residents had professional addresses in King County. The next most frequent county was Spokane county, with 7%. Greater deail is shown in Figure 1. (Map, page 2)

WASHINGTON RESPONDENTS

Patterns in Employment

A majority (62%) of the naturopaths were actively practicing in their field. A fifth (21%) were retired and 17% were semi-retired.

Work Functions: Seventy one percent specified their primary work function as direct patient care, 2% indicated administration, and 2% specified research. A fourth failed to reply to the question concerning work function.


= Represents counties with highest concentration of manpower
Geographic Distribution of Professional Location of Naturopaths Licensed and Living in Washington State
San Juan 0
Whatcom 0
Okanagon 1
Ferry 0
Pend Oreille 0
Stevens 0
Skagit 0
Island 0
Clallam 0
Snohomish 1
Chelan 1
Douglas 0
Lincoln 0
Spokane 3
Jefferson 0
King 20
Mason 1
Grays Harbor 0
Kittatas 2
Grant 2
Adams 0
Whitman 1
Pierce 2
Thurston 1
Pacific 0
Lewis 1
Yakima 1
Franklin 0
Garfield 0
Benton 0
Columbia 0
Walla Walla 0
Asotin 0
Cowlitz 1
Skamania 0
Wahkiakum 0
Klickitat 0
Clark 1

Hours Per Week: About a quarter of the naturopaths worked between 40 and 49 hours, a fifth 50 or more hours. This can be seen in Table II.

TABLE II.

Hours Worked in a Typical Week

Hours:	No.	%
Under 30	5	12
30-39	6	14
40-49	11	26
50+	8	19
No Answer	12	29
Total	42	100%

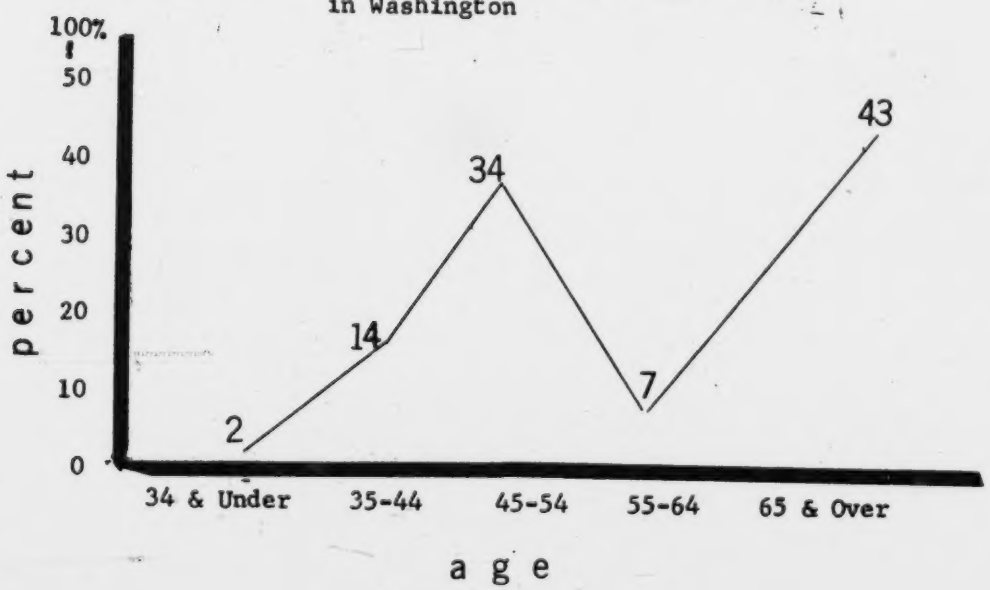
DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

Sex Composition: Seven percent (3) of the naturopaths were women.

Age: Nearly half of the respondents were age 65 or over. A third were between the ages of 45 and 54.

Figure 2

Distribution of Ages of Naturopaths Licensed in Washington



General Education: Half (52%) of the naturopaths had completed the 12th Grade in high school. A large percentage (38%) failed to complete the questionnaire item concerning education.

TABLE III.

Last High School Grade Completed

Grade:	No.	%
Ninth	1	2
Tenth	1	2
Twelfth	22	53
Equivalent*	2	5
No Answer	16	38
Total	42	100%

*Respondent specified he earned a General Equivalency Diploma, rather than completing the 12th Grade

The naturopaths were asked to circle the number of years of college attendance, "excepting" their drugless therapeutic education. A fourth specified four years of college, a fourth two years; a third failed to answer this question. No data were obtained on the site of the educational training.

TABLE IV.

Years of College Reported by Naturopaths Licensed and Living in Washington

No. of Years:	No.	%
One	5	12
Two	11	26
Three	2	5
Four	11	26
No Answer	13	31
Total	42	100%

Drugless Therapeutic Education: Nearly half of the respondents (48%) indicated their professional degree was Doctor of Naturopathy. Another third (31%) reported combinations of Doctor of Naturopathy and Doctor of Chiropractic degrees. A few (2%) indicated earning only a Doctor of Chiropractic degree and the remaining respondents had other types of degrees (12%) or failed to answer the question (7%). Forty five percent of the respondents had earned their degrees between the years of 1905 and 1959, nearly a third between 1950 and 1959 and 12% during 1960 and later years. Twelve percent failed to answer the question.

Location of Training: The most frequently reported state of drugless therapeutic training was Oregon (33%). Twenty six percent received their degrees in Washington.

TABLE V.

State of Drugless Therapeutic Training

Degree Received in:	No.	%
Washington	11	26
Oregon	14	33
Illinois	10	24
Other States	6	15
No Answer	1	2
Total	42	100%

Continuing Education: The naturopaths were asked how many courses, both academic and informal, they had taken in the last five years. Half indicated that they had taken one or more academic courses and three fourths specified one or more informal courses or workshops.

TABLE VI.

Participation in Academic and Informal Courses During Last Five Years

Number of Courses Attended:	Type of Course*			
	Academic		Short-term	
None	No.	%	No.	%
None	12	29	6	14
1-3	8	19	12	29
4 or more	13	31	17	41
No Answer	9	21	7	17
Total	42	100%	42	100%

* Some respondents might have included drugless therapeutic preparatory courses in their count.

LICENSURE

Three fourths (76%) of the naturopaths were licensed through examination and 10% through reciprocity with another state on the basic science portion of the examination. Fourteen percent failed to reply to the question concerning their method of licensure.

Nearly a fourth (24%) indicated that they were licensed in another state. The states in which naturopaths were licensed were primarily Western states such as Alaska, California, Idaho and Nevada. Of the 10 respondents who reported licensure outside Washington, 80% were licensed in only one state.

This concludes discussion of the 1969 survey of naturopaths licensed in Washington State. A second survey was undertaken during 1970 and will provide additional details on this occupation. The report on the 1970 survey will be available sometime during 1971.